

understanding of the described embodiments. However, it will be apparent to one skilled in the art that the specific details are not required in order to practice the described embodiments. Thus, the foregoing descriptions of specific embodiments are presented for purposes of illustration and description. They are not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the described embodiments to the precise forms disclosed. It will be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art that many modifications and variations are possible in view of the above teachings.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for providing access to a shared file through a storage service, the method comprising:
  - generating a share pool in a partition of the storage service, the share pool including one or more stub files;
  - removing a number of stub files from the share pool in response to a request to generate a number of clones of the shared file, wherein the number of stub files is equal to the number of clones of the shared file; and
  - sharing the number of clones of the shared file with a number of users of the storage service.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein each stub file is a copy of a seed file that does not include any content related to the shared file.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the partition of the storage service is allocated to an instructor for a class.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein each clone of the shared file is associated with an identifier for a particular student enrolled in the class.
5. The method of claim 1, further comprising replenishing the share pool with a number of additional stub files in response to the number of stub files being removed from the share pool.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein creating the number of clones of the file from the number of stub files comprises:
  - for each stub file in the number of stub files:
    - moving the stub file from a first location in the partition of the storage service to a second location in the partition of the storage service;
    - changing the file name for the stub file; and
    - copying content related to the file into the stub file to create the clone of the file from the stub file.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein the first location is a hidden folder in the partition and the second location is a folder associated with a hand-out for a class.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the storage service implements:
  - a document application programming interface (API) for performing file operations on files in the partition of the storage service; and
  - a share API for granting access to the files in the partition of the storage service to other users of the storage service.
9. At least one non-transitory computer readable storage medium configured to store instructions that, in response to being executed by at least one processor included in a server device, cause the server device to share files with a plurality of users, by carrying out steps that include:
  - generating a share pool including one or more stub files stored in a storage service;
  - receiving a request to generate a number of clones of a shared file stored in the storage service;
  - allocating a number of stub files from the share pool to create clones of the shared file; and

providing, through the storage service, access to the clones of the shared file to the plurality of users.

10. The at least one non-transitory computer readable storage medium of claim 9, wherein each stub file is a copy of a seed file that does not include any content related to the shared file.

11. The at least one non-transitory computer readable storage medium of claim 9, wherein:

the storage service is divided into a number of partitions having different scope,

the share pool is stored in a first partition having a scope associated with an instructor for a class, and

each clone of the shared file is associated with an identifier for a student enrolled in the class.

12. The at least one non-transitory computer readable storage medium of claim 9, the steps further comprising:

replenishing the share pool with a number of additional stub files to ensure that the number of stub files in the share pool is greater than a pre-defined threshold value.

13. The at least one non-transitory computer readable storage medium of claim 12, wherein the pre-defined threshold value is based on a multiple of an average number of students enrolled in classes offered by a school district.

14. A system for sharing files among a plurality of users, the system comprising:

a storage service implemented by one or more server devices; and

one or more services configured to:

manage a share pool associated with a user of the storage service, wherein the share pool includes one or more stub files stored in a partition of the storage service allocated to the user;

allocate stub files in the share pool to create a number of clones of a shared file; and

associate a number of additional users of the storage service with the number of clones of the shared file, each clone of the shared file being associated with a particular additional user of the number of additional users.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein the one or more services include:

a share handler service configured to:

receive requests to share files with a class, and request a number of stub files from the share pool;

a pool service configured to:

create share pools in partitions of the storage service; and

a sharing service configured to:

generate clones of files in a particular partition of the storage service, and

grant access to the clones to additional users.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein the share handler service is configured to call the pool service to request the number of stub files from the share pool.

17. The system of claim 14, wherein the one or more services are included in at least two server devices connected over a network.

18. The system of claim 14, wherein the one or more services are further configured to create a number of additional stub files in the share pool to replenish the share pool.

19. The system of claim 14, wherein each stub file is a copy of a seed file that does not include any content related to the shared file.